

# Pueblo

# exchange

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Fall 2006



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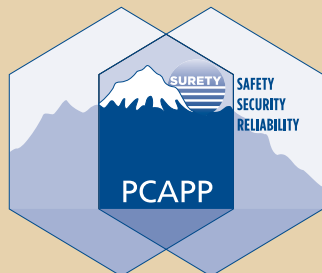
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**Pueblo Chemical Agent-  
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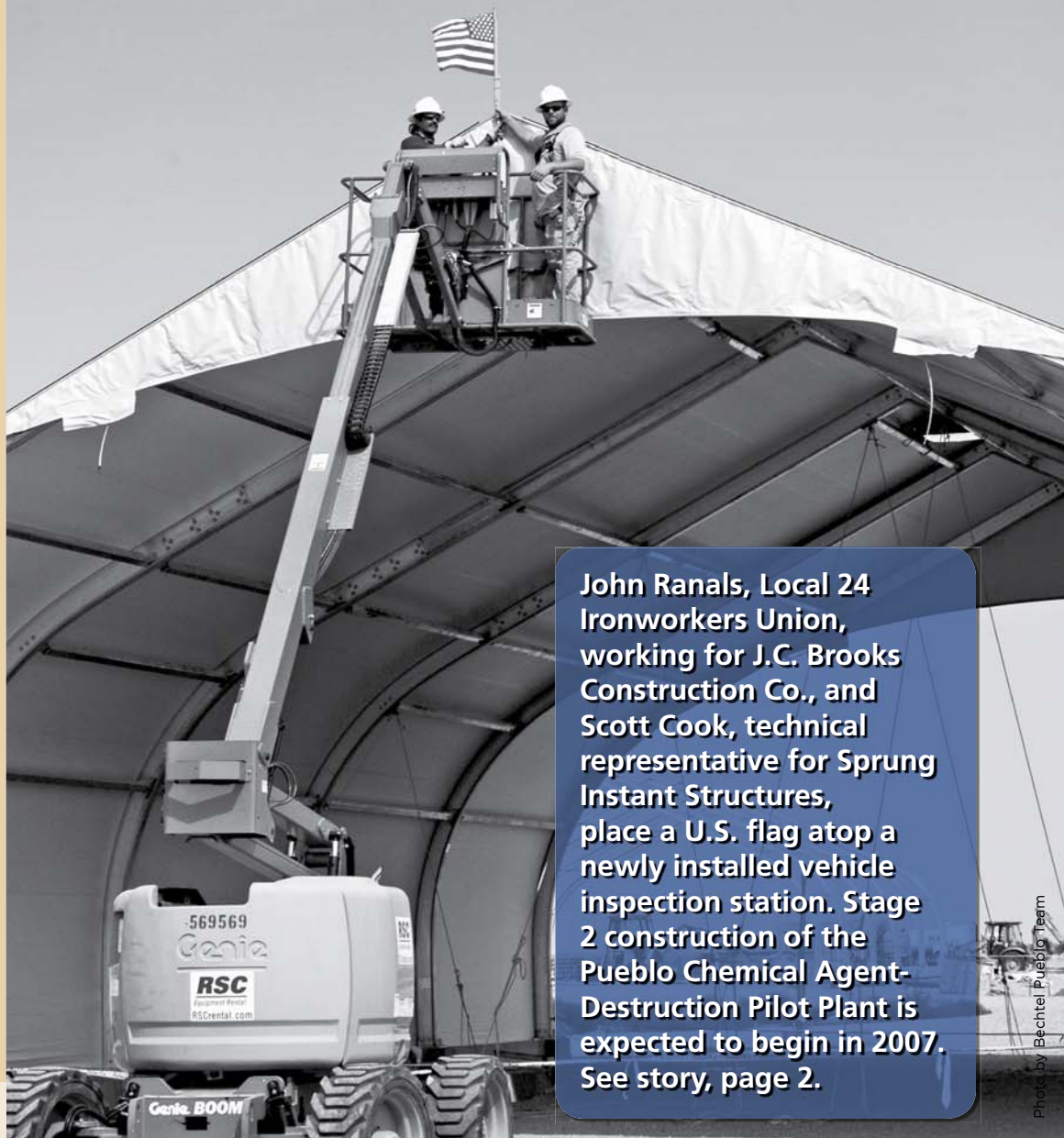
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[www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil)

## Steady Funding Stream Expected for Weapons Disposal Project



John Ranals, Local 24 Ironworkers Union, working for J.C. Brooks Construction Co., and Scott Cook, technical representative for Sprung Instant Structures, place a U.S. flag atop a newly installed vehicle inspection station. Stage 2 construction of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is expected to begin in 2007. See story, page 2.

Photo by Bechtel Pueblo Team

## Funding Expected to Proceed for Weapons Destruction Project

The Department of Defense continues its review of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project, and has indicated a proposed steady funding stream, according to Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Michael Parker, who made the announcement at a packed Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) meeting on Sept. 13.

The baseline funding currently under review would be subject to congressional appropriations and would be allocated annually for fiscal years 2008-2013. Though schedule adjustments need to be made, the funds would ensure that the project continues to move forward, according to Parker.

"This is good news for the program," said John Klomp, chairman of the CAC. "We owe gratitude to our congressional

leaders that we are able to move forward with the chemical weapons destruction project to the benefit of Pueblo, and ultimately, the country."

Regarding the issue of hydrolysate, Parker told the audience that he has not ruled out off-site shipment. He said the projected savings of \$150 million by off-site treatment would then become available to accelerate the chemical weapons destruction program. "I'm obligated to re-look at off-site shipment," Parker said. "We will continue to budget for on-site treatment, but we will have to look at the numbers."

In his closing remarks at the meeting, Klomp said, "We need to remain open-minded and listen. The good news is that the project is going to be funded. It creates good-paying jobs and it's good for the business community."



Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Michael Parker, Citizens' Advisory Commission members Joan Sowinski and John Klomp, and Avondale resident Gloria Duran discuss the chemical weapons destruction project at the Sept. 13 CAC meeting in Pueblo.

Photo by outreach team

### *Employees Receive Commendations*

Two employees were recognized at the Sept. 13 Citizens' Advisory Commission meeting by Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Michael Parker for their contributions to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project.

Philipp Mayer, general engineer for the ACWA program, received an award for developing a flood water drainage system on the Pueblo Chemical Depot's grounds. The original design was scheduled for completion at a cost of \$800,000. Mayer came up with an alternate way of draining the water and his idea was accepted by a hydrologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "Your professionalism and engineering experience clearly illustrate your dedication to the success of this critical National project," Parker had inscribed on the plaque given to Mayer for saving the government \$800,000.

Cindy Elm-Sinn, education outreach specialist for the PCAPP project, received a letter of commendation for giving presentations to more than 7,000 school-age students in Pueblo's two school districts on the topics of "World War I Trench Life and Gas Warfare" and "Neutralization/Biotreatment," the chosen method of destruction for Pueblo's chemical weapons. According to Parker, Elm-Sinn has "inspired students to learn more about the sciences, history and technology."

## Project Welcomes Army Corps Resident Engineer to Pueblo

Fawzy Makar, the resident engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, began working on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project in March after working as a resident engineer in Atlanta, Ga., and Tokyo, Japan.

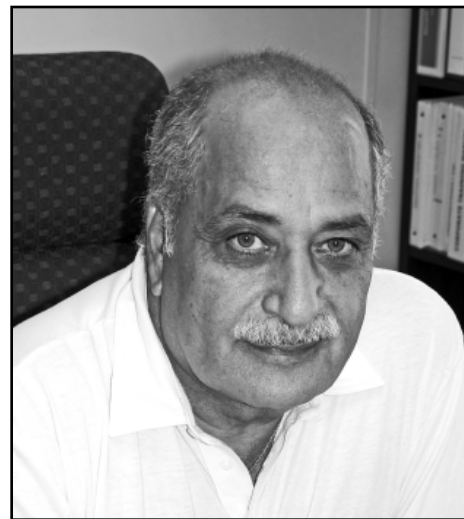
“My plan is to be here for the next four to five years to make sure the facility gets built, passes inspection and is in working order before we turn it over to the operations phase,” said Makar. “After that, who knows? I love working with kids, so maybe teaching part-time at a university or college.”

Before moving to Pueblo, Makar worked at Fort McPherson/Fort Gillam in the Savannah District. Before that, he spent 18 years building facilities for the Armed Forces in Tokyo.

Makar has a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Louisville in Kentucky. He also has a professional license from Kentucky and Mississippi. He and his wife, a registered nurse whom he met in college, have two children: Ryan, a physician at the Navy Medical Center in San Diego; and Melissa, a senior at Stanford University, who is studying bio-mechanical engineering.

Born in Egypt, Makar moved to the United States in the 1970s with his parents and siblings. In fact, Pueblo reminds him a lot of his native country. “Sometimes I feel like I am in Egypt,” he said. “Pueblo is beautiful, but a little bit windy.”

A sports enthusiast by nature, Makar loves to climb mountains, golf and be outdoors.



Fawzy Makar, the Army Corps of Engineers' resident engineer, is new to Pueblo and Colorado.

## Identification and Registration Office Building Nears Completion

The Identification and Registration Office, shown here under construction, is part of the new Access Control Point being built on the Northwest Passage access road to the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. The facility is scheduled for completion late this year.



Photos by outreach team

## A Day in the Life of Bechtel's Safety Manager

Monday through Thursday, Bechtel Pueblo Team's Project Safety Superintendent Terry Wells begins his day bright and early, arriving at 6 a.m. at the Process Support Building (PSB), located at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. As the chief safety inspector for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, Wells' responsibility is to make sure Bechtel and government safety standards are being followed. Here is how his day unfolds.

### 7:00 a.m.

Wells conducts a safety meeting with the Environmental, Safety, and Health staff and construction team to discuss the day's projects.

### 7:30 a.m.

Wells meets with contractors and Army Corps of Engineers staff to discuss the day's activities. Today, they talk about site grubbing (removing brush, grass, and other matter to prepare for paving), erosion control and potential types of hazards.

Every Wednesday, Wells holds a contractor safety meeting to discuss a safety topic of the week. On this particular day, the topic is pinch points. Wells introduces the topic because he observed a tractor operator who had placed himself in a position where he could have been hurt by the vehicle. Past discussions focused on subjects such as moving equipment, which was covered during road construction, and mosquitoes and the West Nile virus. (Bechtel supplies repellent and wipes for the workers.)



Bechtel Safety Manager Terry Wells checks equipment that will be used to stretch fabric over the vehicle inspection stations.

### 9:30 a.m.

On his first of three or four daily visits to the construction site, Wells gets in his truck and makes a stop at a subcontractor's trailer to review the correct type of ropes and hoists that should be used to install fabric covers on the new vehicle inspection stations at the Access Control Point where trucks will stop upon entering the depot.

### 9:50 a.m.

Wells makes a stop to speak with the safety manager for another subcontractor to discuss plans for stretching the fabric, which will serve as a shelter to the vehicle inspection station structures. He briefs the crew about safety before they begin work.

Terry Wells reviews a Safety Task Risk-Reduction Talks (STARRT) Card with Mark Neely of Gash Electric Co. prior to starting work on pulling fiber optic cable to the Access Control Point building.

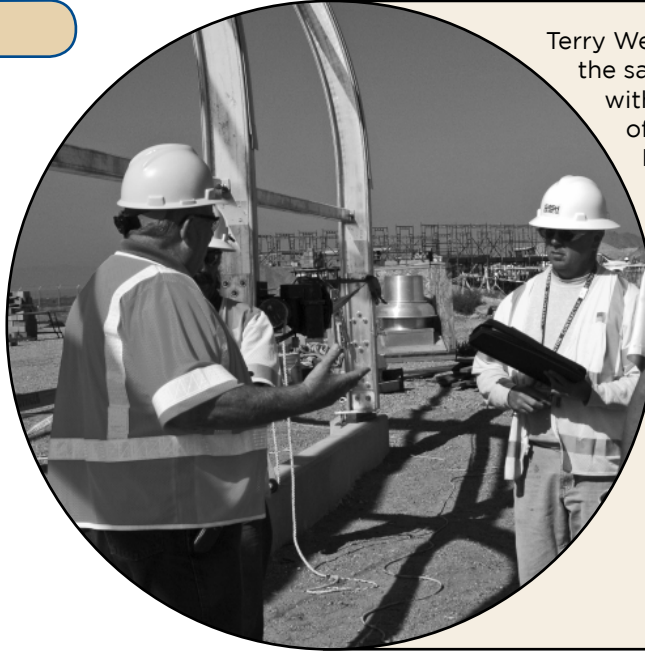


### 10:25 a.m.

Continuing his safety inspection, Wells visits the site where crews are installing conduit and excavating trenches for underground utilities from the depot to the Access Control Point building. Wells asks to see a worker's "STARRT Card." The worker shows him a clipboard with the approved job safety analysis. STARRT Cards, or Safety Task Risk-Reduction Talks, contain a checklist of safety topics for each task and are completed each morning or with a crew change.

### 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Wells conducts a trench inspection to make sure that the work is being done safely, and that a checklist documenting the day's conditions is complete.



Terry Wells reviews the safety process with employees of Gash Electric Co. for stretching fabric on the covers for the vehicle inspection stations.

### 12:00 p.m. to close of business

At this time, Wells heads back to the PSB to attend various staff meetings. Before he leaves for the day, he visits the construction site two or three more times.

"Most of my time is spent doing preparatory work – talking about protection and safety," said Wells. "The most rewarding part of this job is that hopefully, we'll make a difference to the worker."

Contractors and subcontractor employees listen to Terry Wells as he explains safety precautions that must be taken before they begin work planned for the day.



Wells is supported by a department that includes Jennifer Wilson (see related story on page 7), the project nurse who also monitors the weather from her office to alert construction crews of inclement conditions; Cheryl Crookshanks, who works on operational safety reviews; and Ken Young, who supports emergency preparedness procedures.

Photos by outreach team

## Former Bechtel Pueblo Chief Brings Synergy to Program

“Approachable” is one of the first words people use to describe Joe Nemec, the 24-year Bechtel veteran recently appointed the company’s operations manager for its chemical demilitarization projects in Maryland, Kentucky and here in Colorado. “Thoughtful – a good listener – a problem solver,” those who know him invariably add – qualities perhaps matured through a 41-year professional career, 38 years of marriage, a son, three daughters and four grandchildren.

Nemec, a native of Butte, Mont., is well known in Pueblo as the former Bechtel project manager for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. In discussing his new position, Nemec emphasized that his first priority was improving communications between the projects and with government managers at all levels. “Critical lessons-learned need to be integrated more quickly between the jobs,” he said. “Greater advantage needs to be taken of the wide experience of our joint venture and teaming partners. And, we must do a better job of anticipating the information our customer management team needs to make informed and timely decisions.”

Now based out of Bechtel National’s Frederick, Md., headquarters, Nemec, 63, is a principal vice president of the Bechtel Corporation and the company’s senior plant operations manager. Before his Pueblo assignment where he was involved in a major re-design of the plant, he was the project manager for Bechtel Aberdeen, systems contractor for the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. With the safe



Photo by outreach team

Joe Nemec, former project manager for Bechtel Pueblo Team, was in town for the Sept. 13 Citizens’ Advisory Commission meeting. Nemec is now Bechtel’s operations manager for chemical demilitarization in Maryland, Kentucky and Colorado.

neutralization of more than 1,600 tons of mustard agent, Aberdeen became the first chemical destruction facility in the continental United States to complete its stockpile demilitarization mission and is now undergoing decommissioning and closure.

Michael Parker, head of both the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program responsible for the Colorado and Kentucky sites, and the Army’s Chemical Materials Agency, welcomed Nemec’s new role. “Joe brings us the full spectrum of experience – design, construction, systemization, successful plant operations, and now, at Aberdeen –

plant closure. He knows what the client needs to be successful, and he knows that program success is based on the success of all parties.”

Summing up his role, Nemec said, “The benefit of having essentially the same systems contractor for three sites is in the synergy we can create between the projects. My job is to manage that synergy in a way that will maximize its positive effect on safety, environmental protection and cost savings in the face of so many pressing demands on the federal budget. Our government customer; the Pueblo, Blue Grass and Aberdeen communities – and ultimately the American people – deserve nothing less.”

## Employee Corner

### Corps Employees Help Rebuild Iraq



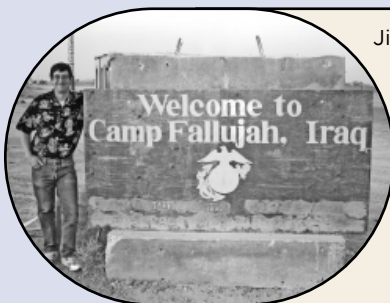
Duncan Jeurgenson arrives in Iraq to volunteer his services.  
Photo courtesy Duncan Jeurgenson

Two Army Corps of Engineers employees, Duncan Jeurgenson, 56, and Jim Bongers, 46, spent six months and one year, respectively, in Iraq, where they joined efforts to help rebuild the country. Both returned to Pueblo this past spring.

"I wanted to help out," said Jeurgenson, the team lead for the project controls

for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project. "I'd been in the Middle East before and wanted to make it a better place."

While in Iraq, Jeurgenson assisted with rebuilding the country's infrastructure, which included assessing its water supply and figuring out how to pipe water to outlying villages. Bongers managed similar projects, but spent time evaluating damage to besieged areas while working with the military to develop reconstruction plans and identify funding sources for repairs.



Jim Bongers arrives at Camp Fallujah in Iraq where he spent one year assisting with engineering projects.  
Photo courtesy Jim Bongers

Both employees would volunteer to return to Iraq again. For now, they are in Pueblo working on the chemical weapons destruction project. Jeurgenson is in the process of preparing for contract negotiations, and Bongers visits the construction site every day to provide oversight to Bechtel employees.

### Project Brings Nurse Home to Colorado



Jennifer Wilson, Bechtel Pueblo Team nurse, assists a donor at the Bonfils Blood Drive, which she helped organize this summer.  
Photo by outreach team

When Jennifer Wilson and her husband decided to move to Colorado, they were surprised by how quickly a job opportunity became available.

"I had posted my resume on Monster.com," said Wilson. "Within a month, Bechtel's Human Resources department contacted me about the occupational health nurse position." Wilson grew up in Aurora, a Denver suburb, but has spent the last 12 years living in Missouri, home to her husband's family.

Wilson attended the University of Northern Colorado, the University of Colorado at Denver and Southwest Missouri State where she earned an associate's degree in nursing. In Missouri, she was an elementary school nurse for four years.

As the on-site nurse for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project, Wilson is available to answer questions, or help employees in the event of an injury or accident. Creating a monthly newsletter and developing wellness programs for employees are among her various duties. Most recently, she helped set up a blood drive where 22 employees donated 17 pints of blood.

Best of all, Wilson is able to travel to Aurora frequently to see her parents. She and her husband have four children, including a baby girl born in October.

## Community Opinion Sought on Shipping Hydrolysate

Community leaders gathered in Pueblo on Oct. 10 to discuss off-site shipment of hydrolysate, the byproduct that comes from neutralizing mustard agent-filled chemical weapons. At the table, Michael Parker, the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program manager, is flanked on his right by Greg Severance, Pueblo County Public Works director, and Irene Kornelly, Citizens' Advisory Commission member. Behind Parker are Paul Henry, Bechtel Pueblo Team project manager; Bob Kennemer, Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office manager; and Kathy DeWeese, ACWA public affairs officer. The roundtable, the first in a series, was attended by 35 community members.



Photo by outreach team

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Pueblo Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant

